



Bluecoat Beechdale
Academy

Belong, Believe, Achieve

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will be aware, Bluecoat Beechdale Academy has changed dramatically during the time since we converted from Hadden Park High in April 2014. We are very proud of the improvements we have made and the achievements the staff and students have earned. Highlights include:

- The number of students attending the academy has doubled
- We received a 'Good' overall grading from Ofsted in February 2017
- We were awarded the Nottingham Post Education Awards 'School of the Year' title for 2017/18
- We have quadrupled the percentage of students getting 5 or more good GCSE passes (including Maths and English)

We regularly review our progress and continue to make changes in order to have even better outcomes in the future. Recent successful initiatives have included banning mobile phones and being clearer about our uniform expectations.

To help manage the increased number of students on site, we have introduced some restrictions around access to different playgrounds, social and eating spaces for different year groups.



New Key Stage 4 Ties

As a Key Stage 4 student, your son/daughter is now working towards GCSEs and equivalent qualifications. It is also an expectation of ours that older students will act as leaders and role models for the younger students at the academy. To recognise that our older students have made the transition to Key Stage 4, we have decided to issue them with a new tie. I have explained to students in assemblies the significance of their new tie and propose to swap their current tie for the new Key Stage 4 tie on Monday. From this point onwards, Key Stage 4 students must wear only the new tie. Additional spare ties can be purchased from our student reception.



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Jewellery

Please can I take this opportunity to remind parents and students that a wrist watch may be worn, but all other jewellery is not allowed in the academy.

Essential Student Equipment

Thank you for your cooperation with the recent equipment drive. We now have almost all students in the school fully equipped and this has been reflected in some beautiful work in their books. From Monday, should your child misplace or forget an item of equipment, we will have our new school equipment shop open before school from 8am - 8.20am each morning, where students can pick up any missing items for a reasonable price. These will be charged via Parent Pay. A price list is available on the website.

Traffic on Harvey Road

Thanks you to everyone that has helped us with our recent trial of restricting the use of Harvey Road. It is a complicated situation as the road itself is not fully adopted by the local council. We are involved in discussions and meetings with the council, traffic enforcement and all other regular users of Harvey Road to create a longer-term solution. However, our trial of having Harvey Road as a one-way system has improved the situation. Feedback on our online survey indicates that the vast majority of parents are in support of these steps. The survey will remain open until Monday morning so please do share your opinion if you haven't yet (www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3Z9FRTF).

Following discussions with the other academies that use Harvey Road, we have decided to keep the gates onto Wigman Road open for the foreseeable future **between 8-9am and 3-3:45pm and maintain the one-way flow of traffic** during these times. I would once again like to politely request that road users support us in improving the safety of our students by adhering to this request and driving considerately.

Student Conduct Outside of the Academy

There have been some concerns raised by members of the public and local community regarding the way in which some of our students make their way home from the academy. This is particularly evident on Harvey Road and Beechdale Road. Please can you reinforce to your child that their behaviour whilst travelling to and from the academy is not only a reflection on themselves and their family, but also on BBA. As stated in our Behaviour Policy, the academy can take measures to regulate the conduct of students when they are not on the academy site and/or not under the supervision of a member of staff. This will include the conduct of students on academy trips and on their way to and from academy. We will take steps to identify and deal with those students who choose to behave in a dangerous and unpleasant manner in the community.

However, the vast majority of students returned to the academy following the summer break looking extremely smart and meeting all of our uniform expectations. Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring your son/daughter upholds our high standards.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C Elder